

The 2013 impact factor of the *Pol Arch Med Wewn*

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Dear Readers, Dear Colleagues!

Good news for our journal, the *Pol Arch Med Wewn*, a monthly peer-reviewed journal on internal medicine and published on behalf of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine in partnership with the publisher, Medycyna Praktyczna.

I am delighted to inform you that the latest impact factor of our journal—for the year 2013—is **2.052**. I would like to thank you all—our authors, reviewers, and editorial board members—for your invaluable contribution to the journal's success. The most cited article published in our journal in 2011 was a review article written by a group of Polish scientists, Staszal et al.,¹ followed by an original article by Polakowska and Piotrowski,² and a review article by Undas.³ In 2012, again, the most cited article was a review (written by Lipinski and Pretorius),⁴ followed by original research papers by Ulasli et al.⁵ and Kwaśny-Krochin et al.⁶

Looking at a higher impact factor (1.833 for the year 2012) and in view of the recent editorial work, I have some comments to share with our readers and future authors. Owing to a growing number of articles being submitted for publication in the *Pol Arch Med Wewn*, we are able to publish only a minority of the submitted papers (less than 25%). Only the best papers in the opinion of Editors, supported by the members of the National Editorial Board, are sent for review without guarantee for publication. Since we now reject a substantial number of good papers on the basis of a preliminary evaluation by journal editors and without peer-review, such a decision can be quite disappointing to authors and I do receive letters from authors expressing their concern. I hope that our decisions are for the sake of our journal; however, I advise all authors to state explicitly in the cover letter why they feel their paper should be published in our journal (for example, unique study population, novel methodology, new diagnostic or treatment strategies, etc.) In addition, the novelty of their research should be emphasized and discussed in the Discussion section of their papers. I believe that every interesting piece of research supported by sound methodology

could be published in the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* or even a better journal as long as the authors do not give up on their publication efforts.

Given that the English language has become the lingua franca of international scientific communication, the publication of good-quality research in the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* may be hampered for linguistic reasons. We are obliged not to publish novel observations if they are not communicated in proper English, even if we have not been very strict on this issue so far. I am aware of the fact that, sometimes, we accept less innovative but well-written articles submitted by authors who are fluent in English or who had their articles proofread by professionals.

Apart from publishing regular review and research articles, the journal also features Clinical Images and Letters to the Editor reporting recent exciting findings or interesting preliminary data. Both these sections have been quite popular, and, in our opinion, they will contribute to our future impact factor. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to submit clinical images and letters to the *Pol Arch Med Wewn*.

We are proud to have published 3 original papers in the present issue written by students interested in internal medicine and research.⁷⁻⁹ We hope that the publication in a journal with an impact factor above 2 will be the first step in the scientific career of those young Polish investigators.

Is it time now to change the official title of our journal into English—*Polish Archives of Internal Medicine*—to make it more international? The change of the title, with its predicted positive effect on the quality and impact of submissions, could help promote Polish clinical science. However, such a decision will need to be approved by the authorities of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine. The decision will be made within the next few months.

I look forward to the continued support of Polish researchers and clinicians in the years to come, so that together we can enhance the quality of science we publish in the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* with a further increase in impact factor in 2014 and beyond.

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